



ERO School Reports: Explainer for schools and boards



What hasn't changed?

- When ERO reviews schools – about every three or four years.
- What we do when we visit schools – we will use the same approach and the same tools.
- The framework for our judgements – still the [School Improvement Framework](#).
- The scale of our judgements – we will continue to use a four-point scale.
- We still don't do an overall, single judgement of each school.
- No league tables.
- How we publish – each final School Report goes on our website www.ero.govt.nz

What has changed?

One report not three

- We won't do the 'school evaluation report' or 'profile report' formats anymore – now we have one style of School Report.

Clear visuals

- We have responded to requests from *parents and whānau* to make School Reports easier to understand by including an easy-to-understand Snapshot and an Overview showing judgements for each area.

Clearer language

- We have removed jargon and words that could be confusing.
- We focused on making reports easy for parents and whānau to understand – including changing the wording of areas and judgements to make it clearer what we mean.
- We used to *describe* our judgements for different areas – now we use a clear four-point scale as well as a description.

Clearer about next steps

- Next steps give more detailed actions for school leaders and boards.
- We now include expected timeframes for when those actions should be completed.
- We clearly state if there are recommendations of action required from the Ministry of Education, e.g. support for schools.

What do the new School Reports look like?

Areas

We will look at 14 areas of school performance that matter the most – or 16 if your school has a reo rua or rūmaki.

The 14 areas which ERO makes judgements on:	
Student achievement	Leadership
Student progress	Teaching
Reading & writing	Curriculum
Mathematics	Assessment
Attendance	Provision for students with additional needs
Engagement & belonging	School improvement
Equity	Governance & the school board
Plus two more for schools with a reo rua or rūmaki:	
Panui & Tuhituhi	Pāngarau

Judgements

ERO makes one of four judgements about each area, based on the ERO School Improvement Framework and evidence gathered by ERO during the evaluation.

Excelling	Excelling means this school demonstrates consistently strong performance. This is the highest judgement.
Doing well	This means the school demonstrates mostly strong and consistent practice. Key conditions for success are in place and there is a focus on improvement.
Working towards	There are gaps in performance, but aspects of improvement are evident but there is variability.
Improvement required	There are significant and sustained gaps in school performance and urgent improvement is required.

Want to see what the new reports will look like? See examples on our website: www.ero.govt.nz

When will our school get one of the new School Reports?

We will begin using our new School Reports for schools that are visited from Term 2 2026 onwards. So the next time your school has a full ERO review, you can expect a new report.

Want to learn more? See our website for information about webinars and other guidance: www.ero.govt.nz